

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Northern States Power Company
Customer Credit – DOE Settlement 2017
Rates

Case No. PU-19-93

ORDER

August 21, 2019

Preliminary Statement

On March 1, 2019, Northern States Power Company (NSP) filed a petition for approval to refund to customers the ninth and tenth settlement payments arising from USDOE's inability to accept nuclear waste under the federal Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

On May 1, 2019, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing that provided until June 19, 2019 for receiving written comments and hearing requests. No response was received.

On July 25, 2019, the Commission discussed this matter with representatives from NSP and Commission Advocacy Staff during an Informal Hearing.

Discussion

NSP requests to combine its ninth payment (approximate \$773,104) received November 13, 2018 and a pending tenth payment expected near the end of 2019 into a one-time bill credit to be issued with interest during early 2020.

Alternatively, NSP suggests the ninth payment could be refunded with interest through the fuel cost rider (FCR), based on each customer's current usage rather than the customer's historical usage during the period when the money was collected.

The Notice of Opportunity for Hearing identified the issues to be determined in this matter:

1. Whether the ninth and tenth settlement payment refunds should be combined in a future bill credit.
2. Whether NSP's ninth settlement payment refund amount is just and reasonable.
3. Whether the Commission should grant a waiver of its Automatic Adjustment Clause rules to enable a refund of the ninth settlement payment through the FCR.

Having considered this matter the Commission finds NSP's ninth settlement payment refund amount is just and reasonable. NSP's proposal to combine the ninth

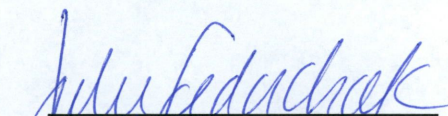
and tenth settlement payment refunds into a single future bill credit should be approved because it minimizes administrative costs while more accurately refunding to the customers who paid into the nuclear waste fund. Therefore, a waiver of Automatic Adjustment Clause rules is not necessary.

Order

The Commission Orders:

1. NSP's proposal to combine the ninth and tenth settlement payment refunds into a single future bill credit is approved.
2. NSP shall file a refund plan when the tenth settlement payment is received.
3. NSP shall file a refund report when the refund is completed.

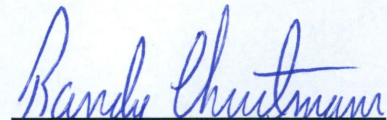
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